

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1202
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013
MONITORING COMMITTEE FOR TV CHANNELS
Pakkirappa Shri S.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has issued guidelines for setting up of State and district level monitoring committees to monitor TV content on cable/local channels and take action under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the States which have set up such committees in their respective State, so far;
- (c) whether any arrangement has been made to provide necessary expertise to these committees so that the objectives of setting up of these committees are not compromised with and they are not affected by local prejudices/subjectivity;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by the Government to regulate TV content?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

(a) & (b) Instructions were issued to the Chief Secretaries of all State Governments and UT Administrations vide order dated 06-09-2005 [available at website of the Ministry www.mib.nic.in] for setting up State level and Local/District level Monitoring Committees to take cognizance of violations of Programme and Advertising Codes transmitted and re-transmitted in the local cable Television channels, under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. So far 22 State Level and 276 District Level Monitoring Committees have been set-up. A list of States/UTs where Monitoring Committees have been set up is placed at Annexure.

(c) to (e) These Committees are broad-based and consist of not only the District/State Administration and Police but also members from the society such as Principal of a Women's College, representative of NGOs working for child welfare and women welfare, Academicians, Psychologists, Sociologists etc. who are experts in their respective fields. The order of 19-02-2008 [available at website of the Ministry www.mib.nic.in] also details out the scope of the Committee, procedure for operation, functions of the Committees etc. in order to provide necessary functional guidance to the working of such Monitoring Committees.

(f) All programmes and advertisements telecast on TV channels, transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable TV network, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The provisions of the Act, and Rules framed thereunder, is applicable to all private satellite/cable television channels including the regional language channels. This Ministry has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the violations of the Programme and Advertisement Codes. IMC has representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs, Law, Women and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare, Consumer Affairs and Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). IMC meets periodically and recommends action against violations. Government has also set up an Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) to monitor the content telecast on Private satellite television channels. Action is taken as per rules whenever any violation of Code is brought to the notice of the Government.